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A GRADUATE SCHOOL OF GEOGRAPHY[1]

A CASTLE IN THE AIR

IN spite of a wide-spread prejudice against building castles in the air, I propose this afternoon to consider a construction of that kind; for if castles are not to be built in the air, where in the world are they to be built; surely not underground or in the water! All the castles I have ever seen were built in the air; their foundations were in the ground, of course, but the castles themselves were in the air. My proposal therefore needs no defense.

In view of the good number of castles already built, some of them very high in the air, even on mountain tops, for occupation by the defendants of various sciences, it is gratifying to learn that plans are advancing for the erection here in Worcester of a castle of the particular kind in which my own interest is most excited, a geographical castle. But it is on the other hand regrettable to find that the proposal to erect a castle, a stronghold, dedicated to geography alone seems, even in intellectual circles, to need explanation if not justification; so little is the vast and varied content of geography understood, so imperfectly is the great opportunity for original research in geography appreciated, so halting is the recognition of the importance that the results of such research will have in the conservation and consecration of the wide spaces of the earth to the better advantage of mankind. Let us try to rise to a realization of the geographical opportunity before us.

THE EPOCH OF GEOGRAPHICAL DESCRIPTION

We must remember that the geographical epoch, in which the first discovery of the gen-

[1] An address at the annual commencement of Clark University, Worcester, Mass., on June 12, 1922.